

Regional Development News & Notes



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Downtown Initiative

UPDATE

www.nhhfa.org/downtown/index.htm

The March 1st Workshop was a very well attended event. The standing room only crowd heard representatives from OSP, CDFA and NHHFA outline the Application process, and answer questions from the audience. If the large turnout is any indication of downtown revitalization interest in NH, we should see a number of proposals brought forth. The Pre-Application deadline is March 29, 2002. Initial inter-agency review begins in early April.

People/Job Connections



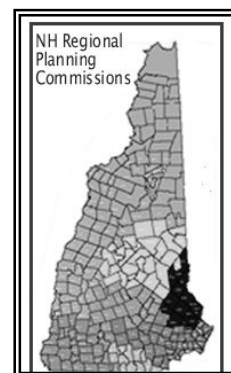
BCEDC is spearheading an effort to match recent graduates with NH companies. **NHFuture.org** is a web site designed to bring new workers and NH companies together. It provides a centralized location for posting job-wanted and job-available classifieds. It also lists many links to related employment resources.

Take a look at the site, and share it with companies in your Region.

Got Stats?

www.nharpc.org

If you're looking for town-based statistics and information, definitely check out the NH Assoc. of Regional Planning Commissions web site. It contains a wealth of data including population projections, historical info, land use data, tax rates, income & poverty stats, employment & housing info, and commuting data.



SB 177 UPDATE

RE: Tax Increment Computation



This Bill (designed to modify the computation of tax increments to include the new State School Tax) pertaining to TIFs has passed the Senate. It is now in the Municipal and County Government Committee.

The Committee held a Hearing for SB 177 on March 13th. All who attended the Hearing expressed their support for the Bill, emphasizing that TIF is one of the most significant economic development tools available to a community. Those testifying at the Hearing included Jack Dugan from MEDC and Stuart Arnett from DRED. Stay tuned!

CDBG “101”

A Series of Helpful Reminders for Grantees and Sub-Recipients



1: The Grant Agreement (see CDBG Implementation Guide, Chapter I for more information)

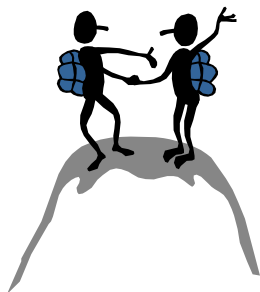
Along with CDBG funds comes a significant set of responsibilities. Many of these are “business as usual” when working in the public sector. There are, however, some items unique to CDBG funds.

The Grant Agreement (contract) is the document that delineates the parameters for each funded project. It is the mechanism through which OSP legally provides funds needed to carry out your economic development project. ***The Grant Agreement is your bible. Whenever you have questions about permissible uses for grant funds, consult the agreement first. It is, in fact, the primary standard against which OSP holds your performance.***

Continued ►

Did You Know?

(things to ponder, or not, when solving the economic development needs of NH)



- The Hawaiian Islands are the projecting tops of the biggest mountain range in the world. Mauna Kea, on the island of Hawaii, is the largest mountain on Earth. – though partially submerged, it is 4,000 feet taller than Mount Everest. (lesson: What you don’t, or can’t, see is often a significant part of the story).

One of life’s certainties is *change*. Circumstances sometimes dictate needed adjustments to a plan, and CDBG projects are no different in that regard. Changes to the scope, budget or completion date of the project are accomplished by either a *revision* or *amendment*. Here are some guidelines:

REVISIONS: A *revision* is a change from the originally approved activity, or activity budget, which is 10% or less than the total grant. Revisions may be permitted with prior written approval by the Director of OSP under the following conditions:

- The cumulative amount transferred does not exceed 10% of the total grant award; and,
- increases to General Administration do not result in that activity exceeding 15% of the total grant award; and,
- transfers do not result in a decrease of more than 10% in the total number of beneficiaries served.

AMENDMENTS: A contract *amendment* is required when:

- A change to the budgeted amount for one or more activities exceeds a cumulative amount of 10% of the total grant budget; or,
- a change to the project creates a new activity; or,
- a change in target area is proposed; or,
- the completion date is extended; or
- the total number of beneficiaries are to be decreased by more than 10%; or,
- the total grant amount is increased in order to add second year funds in a two-year project.

NOTES:

- A **Public Hearing** is required prior to submitting an Amendment Request if budget transfer, activity or new target area exceeds 25% of the grant.
- Amendments require prior approval by OSP and G&C.
- **Each Revision or Amendment must be approved by Selectmen or City Council**, unless authority has been granted to the CEO to administer the grant and the local government’s regulations do not require further approval.
- Amendments require re-evaluation of the **environmental** status of affected project activities.
- If an amendment causes any changes from the **Initial Disclosure Report**, the Updated Report must be submitted with the Amendment Request.